

Curious Climate Tasmania

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Invitation to participate in Curious Climate Tasmania

You are invited to participate in Curious Climate Tasmania which is a collaborative project that offers the public the ability to submit their questions about climate change and have them answered by a team of scientists and researchers. Part of the team will also analyse the questions to gain further insight into the major climate change themes and language used, with this research being led by Prof. Gretta Pecl, with support from Dr Emily Ogier, Rachel Kelly, Coco-Cullen Knox and David Mossop from the University of Tasmania (UTAS), the Centre for Marine Socioecology (CMS) and the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS).

What is the purpose of this project?

This project creates a new pathway for climate change information by empowering the public to pose questions that are important and relevant to them. Through this process we aim to better understand the major themes of interest and types of language used by the Tasmanian public in relation to climate change. We also aim to identify potential communication gaps between the public and the scientific community. Additionally, we are interested in the experience of the public in engaging with the scientific community in this way.

How is the project being funded?

This project is being funded by a National Science Week Grant provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

What does participation in this project involve?

Participation in this project is limited to residents of Tasmania only due to the scope of the project. Participation is via ABC's Curious Climate Tasmania webpage where you can submit your questions about climate change along with personal information ('age' and 'postcode' are the only mandatory fields). This is estimated to take less than 5 minutes. *Note: all data provided to UTAS by ABC for analysis will be de-identified to protect the identity of participants.* The submitted climate change questions will be assessed by our research team and answers will be provided through free, optional public presentations for the most commonly asked questions/themes. The submitted questions and demographic information (for participants aged 18 and over) will also be analysed to better understand the areas of concern and relevance for the public, and the presence of potential information and knowledge gaps.

Are there any possible benefits from participation in this project?

We aim to provide public benefit by providing evidence-based answers to the most commonly asked questions on climate change. This project will also advance our knowledge of the climate change themes of importance to Tasmanian residents which will assist future engagement activities.

Are there any possible risks from participation in this project?

There is a potential risk of feeling discomfort associated with receiving answers to climate change questions which involve negative future impacts, or which challenge alternate points of view.

What if I change my mind during or after the project?

You are not obligated to participate in any part of this project. Once you have submitted a question through the ABC webpage it will not be possible to remove your climate change question from the dataset, however your personal details can be removed. Contact details for the research team are provided below.

What will happen to the data when this project is over?

Data will be non-identifiable. It will be stored on a University of Tasmania server for five years from the date of project completion. This server is password-protected and only accessible to the researchers of this study. Data will be destroyed at the end of the five years following publication.

How will the results of the project be published?

A Curious Climate Tasmania website will be developed. This will provide participants and the wider public updates on the most commonly asked climate change questions and the corresponding answers provided by scientists in the form of short videos. The results of project research will be published in a peer-reviewed journal and links will be provided on the website. A plain language summary will also be provided on the website.

How can I agree to be involved?

If you would like to participate, please fill out the question form on the ABC Curious Climate Tasmania webpage. In doing this your consent to be involved is implied.

What if I have questions about this project?

If you have any queries, concerns or issues with this study, please feel free to contact us:

David Mossop – Project Officer
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03 6226 8277

Professor Gretta Pecl – Chief Investigator
gretta.pecl@utas.edu.au

This study has been approved by the Tasmania Social Sciences Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns or complaints about the conduct of this project, you can contact the Executive Officer of the HREC (Tasmania) Network on (03) 6226 6254 or email ss.ethics@utas.edu.au, quoting the ethics approval number for this project - H0018145. The Executive Officer is the person nominated to receive complaints from research participants.

Thank you for your time

